

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a computing device, a method comprising:  
maintaining account data in a common store with content  
data related to that account data; and

5 reading the account data from the common store to update  
the content data with content data from another source.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the common store is on a  
storage mechanism that is selectively connectable to the  
10 computing device.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the storage mechanism  
that is selectively connectable to the computing device  
comprises a removable memory card, and wherein reading the  
15 account data to update the content data with content data from  
another source occurs in response to insertion of the memory  
card being detected.

4. The method of claim 3 further comprising updating a  
20 user interface based on the content that is updated after  
reading the account data to update the content data.

5. The method of claim 3 further comprising,  
automatically updating a user interface based on removal of the  
memory card being detected.

5 6. The method of claim 2 wherein the storage mechanism  
that is selectively connectable to the computing device  
comprises a network storage mechanism that is logically  
connected to or disconnected from the computing device based on  
a network connection state, and further comprising, receiving a  
10 notification corresponding to a change to the network connection  
state.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein reading the account data  
comprises obtaining information needed to communicate with a  
15 POP3 mail server.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein obtaining information  
needed to communicate with a POP3 mail server comprises  
maintaining at least one of the set containing: username, logon  
20 credentials and server identity.

9. The method of claim 7 further comprising, updating a  
user interface of a mail-related application program based on  
the content that is updated after reading the account data.

10. The method of claim 1 further comprising, maintaining the common store as part of a single storage volume.

5        11. The method of claim 10 wherein reading the account data from the common store to update the content data comprises mapping messages to the common store based on data corresponding to an identifier of the storage volume.

10       12. The method of claim 1 further comprising, receiving a notification of a change corresponding to available storage, and in response, enumerating each common store.

15       13. One or more computer-readable media having computer-executable instructions which when executed perform the method of claim 1.

14. In a computing device, a method comprising:  
obtaining account settings maintained in a common store;  
20       using the account settings that were obtained to retrieve content data from a content source; and  
updating content data in the common store with the content data retrieved via the account settings.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising updating a user interface in association with updating the content data.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein the common store is on  
5 a storage mechanism that is selectively connectable to the computing device, and further comprising, obtaining data corresponding to a change in a connection state of the storage mechanism.

10 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the storage mechanism comprises a removable memory card, and wherein obtaining the account settings occurs automatically following insertion of the memory card.

15 18. The method of claim 17 further comprising, updating a user interface based on insertion of the memory card.

19. The method of claim 17 further comprising, updating a user interface based on removal of the memory card.

20

20. The method of claim 16 wherein the storage mechanism is accessed via a network connection, and wherein obtaining the account settings occurs automatically upon establishing a network connection to access the storage mechanism.

21. The method of claim 20 further comprising, updating a user interface based on establishment of the network connection.

5        22. The method of claim 20 further comprising, updating a user interface based on termination of the network connection.

23. The method of claim 14 wherein using the account settings that were obtained to retrieve content comprises  
10 communicating with a POP3 mail server.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein obtaining account settings comprises reading at least one of the set containing: username, logon credentials and server identity.  
15

25. The method of claim 14 wherein the common store is contained in a single storage volume, and wherein updating the content data comprises mapping messages to the storage volume.

20        26. The method of claim 25 further comprising, enumerating the common store based on the storage volume becoming available for access.

27. One or more computer-readable media having computer-executable instructions which when executed perform the method of claim 14.

5 28. In a computing device, a system comprising:

a storage mechanism that contains a common store having account settings and stored message data related to those account settings; and

10 a message-handling mechanism that obtains the account settings from the storage mechanism and uses those account settings to retrieve other message data from a message source and update the stored message data with the other message data.

15 29. The system of claim 28 wherein the message-handling mechanism includes a POP3 transport.

30. The system of claim 28 wherein the message-handling mechanism includes an inbox application program.

20